SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, will the Minister come forward to take steps to ask the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, to withdraw the service tax on postal saving scheme, life insurance scheme and other schemes? Hon. Minister has to take steps.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I would request the hon. Member to ask the Finance Minister directly.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Because postal services are being affected.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that the vacancies arising on account of retirement of postmen and sad demise of the postmen are not being filled in the Department of Post. Is the Minister aware of the total number of extra departmental agents in rural India and what are their grievances pending with the Government of India?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member's question does not relate to this question. Let him put a separate question, I will answer it.

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पोस्टल सर्विस समाज की सेवा के लिए है या व्यापार के लिए है? क्योंकि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: क्योंकि नहीं, सीधा जवाब ले लो कि व्यापार के लिए है या सेवा के लिए है।

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: इस रिर्पोट के मुताबिक पोस्टल सर्विस का काम बढ़ता जाता है, लेकिन कुरियर सर्विस पर उन्होंने कंट्रोल डाल रखा है। तो ओपन मार्किट में और कम्पिटीशन के जमाने में मैं मानता हूं कि कुरियर को भी साथ लेकर चलना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी आप बताइए कि पोस्टल सर्विस व्यापार के लिए है या सेवा के लिए है?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am not getting the translation.

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: यह पोस्टल सर्विस सोशल सर्विस है या कमर्शियल सर्विस है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member is asking whether postal services are for commerce or social service.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: It is for both, social and commercial. We also have to make money. We are trying to make efforts to reduce the deficits. At the same time, we are competitive enough. Sir, the fact is that person-to-person mail has reduced. I think, we have to come to terms with that.

Promotion of Sports and Sportsmen

*403. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the special package and facilities envisaged to promote and enhance the skills of Indian Players and Sportsmen except usual and conventional practices that are in existence at present;

(b) the policy initiative to promote and project Sports and Games in general and in respect of few games and sports in particular having good deal of prospects in India; and

(c) whether it is a fact that most of outstanding players and sportsmen have reached their zenith on account of their own rather than the environment and the facilities offered to them by Governmental agency?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Keeping in view the twin objectives of 'broad-basing' sports and 'achievement of excellence at the international level' the Government of India, both directly and through the Sports Authority of India, is implementing a number of schemes to augment the efforts of the State Governments and the National Sports Federations concerned with different individual sports for the promotion of sports. These schemes include:—

1. Rural Sports Programme
2. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools
3. Talent Search and Training
4. National Sports Development Fund
5. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
6. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
7. SAI Training Centre (STC)
8. Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme
9. Centre of Excellence (COX)
10. Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation (NSFs)

Together, these schemes provide a package of activities and assistance aimed at identification and nurturing of talent, provision of training and technical/financial support to promising sportspersons, assistance to National Sports Federations with reference to Long Term Development Plans for different disciplines based, *inter alia*, on the performance of sportspersons and teams in international events, and providing specialized training with state-of-art facilities, equipment and scientific back-up to sportspersons displaying promising performance in senior national competitions. The scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) focuses on scouting and nurturing talent from far-flung rural, tribal and coastal areas, and also from regions which are genetically or geographically conducive to excellence in particular sports disciplines.

In recognition of the shortage of sports facilities, particularly in the rural areas, and the consequent lack of access to organized sports and games

for a large section of the youth, and potential talent in such areas, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayati Raj Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders, including educational institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, youth organizations and the sports related establishment. Separately, the Government is also reviewing the sports policy in the context of the Eleventh Plan and developments in the sphere of sports, including India's desire to host various international mega sports events.

(b) While the particular sports disciplines in which Indian sportspersons excel is growing and varies from time to time, special mention might at present be made of excellence in cricket, shooting, golf, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, table tennis, archery and athletics. Disciplines where prospects for winning medals and honors appear particularly bright are put into 'Priority category' for exposure abroad both for training and competition. Foreign coaches are hired where required. Talent scouting, talent nurturing and training are concentrated in these areas by both the SAI and NSF's concerned.

Under the scheme of 'Talent Search and Training' a package of assistance is provided to individual promising sportspersons based on their chances of getting medals in international sports events, as also to sports scientists and specialists who can provide technical and expert back up to our sportspersons. Under the scheme of 'National Sports Development Fund', assistance is being provided to sportspersons displaying excellence at national and international levels for specialized training and coaching, etc. to further enhance their potential for higher performance and achievement in top international tournaments/events.

(c) Many outstanding sportspersons representing the country at the international level have given commendable performances and won medals in various international events. This is both on account of their own talent and endeavour as also the assistance being provided to the National Sports Federations and to sportspersons under the schemes of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, though the Minister is well informed, it seems he is ill-equipped in practice and implementation of the scheme for promotion of sports and games. Sir, the entire House knows that for the growth of a man and to become complete, three-sided growth is necessary—body, mind and soul....(*Interruptions*). Sir, I am coming to the point. Much has been said for the growth of the mind by way of education, but for the growth of body, it has been totally neglected. That is the point. As far as the Minister is concerned, his twin objective is 'man making,

nation building'. What I am trying to ask is 47 per cent of the total population belongs to youth sector. But this youth sector is totally neglected. Now, first part of my first supplementary is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question. I won't allow you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, how much of this population, namely the youth sector, has been served by your various schemes? That is my first part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. only first part is allowed.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the second part...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no second part. If you want to hear the reply of the Minister, then...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, otherwise, the question is incomplete. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made it incomplete. Why did you give so much background about it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: And, that too, leaving out women, Sir. A background without women...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: How much percentage has been covered by the scheme? And, can you have a perspective plan and a time-frame to cover this sector? This is the point.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I confess of being extremely ill-equipped. But, at the same time, I am grateful for the support that is being extended to me implecitly by the hon. Member for reaching out organised sports and games to a much larger segment of our youth than is the case at the present moment. Indeed, the present figures are extremely disturbing. According to the University Grants Commission, in our schools, colleges and other educational institutions, we are able to reach organised sports and games to approximately three crore students and the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has estimated that through other means like youth clubs and sports clubs, we are able to reach out to approximately another two crore, whereas the population in India, which is between the ages of 0—35, is approximately of the order of 77 crore. It means that 72 crore children, young people, adolescents have no access whatsoever to organised sports and games. And this is revealed by the fact that our programme of All India Rural Sports Tournament designed to spot talent in rural players has in the last three years, *i.e.*, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06, thrown up only a total of 668 talented sportsmen out of a rural adolescent and young people's population of close to 45 crore. Therefore, clearly, we need to have a relook at this whole thing. We have a concept paper, what is called the Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan, which attempts to synergize the 2,50,000 youth clubs we have under the NYKS, with

approximately 2,50,000 village Panchayats and other Panchayats that we have in the country, in the hope that in this process, we will be able to tap in that vast reservoir of rural sports talent which has been neglected over the last sixty years, which deserves to be...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it is enough. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I come to my second supplementary question. Sir, in part (c) of the answer, the Minister has mentioned that many outstanding sportsmen representing the country at the international level have given commendable performances and won medals in various international events. Now, this is both on account of their own talent and endeavour and as also the assistance being provided to the National Sports Council etc. What I am trying to ask is whether the support you are giving in addition to the merit etc., is it only namesake or is it really in terms of financial, technical and scientific?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, in this connection ...(*Interruptions*)... One second, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, there is no question. Please let him reply. I will request the Minister to be brief. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, in this connection...(*Interruptions*) Kindly listen...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, in the budget performance document...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Your have put the question. Let the Minister...(*Interruptions*)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I have not added my second part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second part...(*Interruptions*)... There is no question of second part. You are still moving on the first part.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The Chairman will enjoy the kind of question that I am going to ask (*Interruptions*) I am referring to the documents. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The whole House has enjoyed it. (*Interruptions*) The whole House has enjoyed it. (*Interruptions*) You put your question quickly.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, based on the document...(*Interruptions*) Sir, one second. (*Interruptions*) Sir, the Minister is capable of answering it. Please allow me. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. (*Interruptions*).

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, in the Budger performance, they have given annexure II on page 21. I don't know whether the Minister has read it or not. And, they have said that unspent balance, up to a particular period, is running above Rs. 22 crores. An amount of Rs. 22 crores has been remaining as unspent balance, as per this report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a fact?

DR. K. MALAISAMY: So, what is the present position...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, take your seat now. Please, take your seat. Mr. Minister, please, be brief.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I find the question so interesting and it is so rare ...(*Interruptions*)...opportunity to answer ...(*Interruptions*)... because its obsession is with things like petroleum. I would, therefore, wish to answer as briefly as I can. In so far as talented sportsmen, who have been identified, are concerned, I think, we are doing a good job in training these people. But, the total number of talented sportspersons, being trained by the Sports Authority of India, at the moment, is approximately ten thousand. Whereas, in a country like Cuba, whose entire population is less than the population of Delhi, there are one lakh sportspersons being trained there. And, I understand that in China, this number is fifty lakh. So, quite clearly, while we are doing a good job about training of those who have been identified, we need to spread our net very, very much wider. In that connection, I find that the designing and structure of the numerous schemes, that this Ministry has been evolving over the years, has not been evoking an adequate response from these State Governments. So, we need to re-design these sports programmes, converge them more closely into one. I am trying to do this in consultation with the State Governments so that the utility of these programmes is considerably enhanced. And, I hope, in consequence of that, we will be able to get far more resources put into this. It is distorted to look only at mega sports events or large expenditure without looking at the reservoir of talent in this country which we have to...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister, thank you. Question No. 404.

*404. [The questioner Shri Harish Rawat was absent. For answer *vide* page 28]

Availability of telephone equipments

*405. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: